

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11470 130818Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00  
COME-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 /101 W  
-----018808 132218Z /61

R 130634Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5405  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11470

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ECIN, TZ, IN  
SUBJ: INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT TO TANZANIA

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 3247

1. IN HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RETURNING HOME FROM HIS EAST AFRICAN TRIP, INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE PUT MAJOR STRESS ON THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF HIS TALKS IN TANZANIA. IN DISCUSSION OF TRIP WITH POL COUNSELOR, MEA JOINT SECRETARY A.K. DAMODARAN, WHO ACCOMPANIED VAJPAYEE, ALSO EMPHASIZED VISIT'S PRIMARILY ECONOMIC FOCUS.
2. DAMODARAN SAID THAT TANZANIANS SEEMED APPRECIATIVE OF INDIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THEY HAD BEEN CANDID AND OUTSPOKEN IN THE PRIVATE TALKS ABOUT VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THIS COOPERATION, BUT HAD SEEN TO IT THAT THE PUBLIC PRINT CARRIED ONLY COMMENDATORY REMARKS. DAMODARAN THOUGHT THERE WAS MUCH MORE INDIA COULD DO IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE IN TANZANIA AND SAID THE GOI WAS DETERMINED TO EXPAND INDIAN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY THERE. REFLECTING THE COMMENTS IN THE DAR REFTEL, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE NOTED THAT EAST AFRICA WAS A NATURAL REGION FOR SUCH ACTIVITY: THERE WAS LESS COMPETITION FROM THE RICH COUNTRIES AND LONG INDIAN EXPERIENCE IN THE AREA.

3. DAMODARAN GAVE DISTINCT SECOND BILLING TO THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT. HE POINTED OUT

THAT THE FACT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD HEADED THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE INDO-TANZANIAN JOINT COMMISSION WAS AN HISTORICAL QUIRK; ONE OF THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS WOULD HAVE BEEN A MORE NATURAL CHOICE. DISCUSSING THE TALKS VAJPAYEE HAD HAD WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE ON AFRICAN POLITICAL ISSUES, DAMODARAN SAID THAT IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT THE TANZANIANS, WHILE GRATEFUL TO THE INDIANS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING TRAINING, NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT, AND MORAL SUPPORT TO THE ZIMBABWE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, DID NOT LOOK TO THE INDIANS FOR ANYTHING MORE. WHEN POL COUNSELOR RECALLED VAJPAYEE'S ASSERTION TO DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER THAT THE INDIANS WERE UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO DO MORE, DAMODARAN SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE CRUX OF THE MATTER WAS THAT VAJPAYEE WAS PROBABLY CONCERNED THAT THERE WAS A GAP BETWEEN INDIAN RHETORIC ON ZIMBABWE AND THE ACTUAL ASSISTANCE INDIA WAS PROVIDING. (SUCH CONCERN, HE THOUGHT, HAD NOT BEEN SHARED BY THE GANDHI GOVERNMENT.) IN DAMODARAN'S VIEW, VAJPAYEE WANTED TO NARROW THAT DIFFERENCE BY DOING MORE. BUT HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT THIS WOULD INCLUDE WEAPONS FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS NOR TROOPS FOR A PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN KIMBABWE.  
GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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